AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims included hereinbelow will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel Claims 7, 8, 19-35 and 39-42 without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in future divisional or continuation applications.

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding a protein comprising SEQ ID NO:2 or an isolated nucleic acid fragment complementary to a nucleic acid fragment encoding a protein comprising SEQ ID NO:2.

10. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid fragment of Claim 9, wherein the nucleic acid fragment comprises SEQ ID NO:1, or a nucleic acid sequence complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

11-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously presented) A chimeric gene comprising a nucleic acid fragment according to any one of Claims 9 or 10 operably linked to heterologous regulatory elements that are functional in a host organism.

44. (Previously presented) The chimeric gene of Claim 43, wherein the host organism is selected from the group consisting of a bacterium, an *E.* coli bacterium, a yeast, a yeast of the genera *Saccharomyces*, a yeast of the genera *Kluyveromyces*, a yeast of the genera *Pichia*, a fungus, an *Aspergillus* fungus, a plant cell, and a plant.

45. (Previously presented) The chimeric gene of Claim 43 further comprising a gene encoding

a selectable marker suitable for the transformation of said host organism operably linked to a heterologous regulatory element that is functional in a host organism.

46. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the chimeric gene of Claim 43.

47. (Previously presented) A method for transforming a host organism comprising incorporating the chimeric gene of Claim 43 into the genome of said host organism.

48. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 47, wherein the chimeric gene is incorporated into the genome of the host organism by means of a vector.

49. (Previously presented) The method Claim 47, wherein the host organism is selected from the group consisting of a bacterium, an *E.* coli bacterium, a yeast, a yeast of the genera *Saccharomyces*, a yeast of the genera *Kluyveromyces*, a yeast of the genera *Pichia*, a fungus, an *Aspergillus* fungus, a plant cell, and a plant.

50. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49, wherein the host organism is a plant cell.

51. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 50, wherein the method further comprises regenerating a plant from the plant cell.

52. (Previously presented) A host organism comprising the chimeric gene of Claim 43.

53. (Previously presented) The host organism of Claim 52, wherein the host organism is selected from the group consisting of a bacterium, an *E.* coli bacterium, a yeast, a yeast of the genera *Saccharomyces*, a yeast of the genera *Kluyveromyces*, a yeast of the genera *Pichia*, a fungus, an *Aspergillus* fungus, a plant cell, and a plant.

54. (Previously presented) The host organism of Claim 53, wherein the host organism is a plant.

55. (Previously presented) A transgenic plant regenerated from a plant cell comprising the chimeric gene of Claim 43.

56. (Previously presented) A progeny of the transgenic plant of Claim 55, wherein the progeny

comprises the chimeric gene.

57. (Previously presented) The plant of Claim 56, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of a corn plant, a wheat plant, a rapeseed plant, a soybean plant, a rice plant, a sugar cane plant, a beetroot plant, a tobacco plant and a cotton plant.

58. (Previously presented) Seeds from the transgenic plant of Claim 56, wherein the seeds comprise the chimeric gene.

59. (Previously presented) A method for preparing an antifungal peptide encoded by the chimeric gene of Claim 43, wherein the method comprises: cultivating a host organism transgenic for the chimeric gene in an appropriate cultivation environment; extracting the antifungal peptide produced by said chimeric gene; and partially or totally purifying the antifungal peptide produced by said chimeric gene.

60. (Previously presented) Seeds from the transgenic plant of Claim 57, wherein the seeds comprise the chimeric gene.

61. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 46, wherein the vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a cosmid, a bacteriophage or a virus.

62. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 61, wherein said virus is a baculovirus.